

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-03 SCA-01 PER-01 MMO-01 ARAE-00 /017 W
----- 045616 /53
P 171410Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3896

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 2563

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CVIS, APER, GY, US
SUBJECT: CONSULAR WORKLOAD

REF: (A) STATE 303441, (B) STATE 305199

1. REF A AUTHORIZED ISSUANCE OF OVER 1,000 IMMIGRANT
VISAS BY POST FOR MONTH OF JANUARY 1977. VISA OFFICE
SHOULD BE AWARE OF PERSONNEL PROBLEMS POST HAS EXPERIENCED
SINCE OCTOBER 20 WHEN OUR CHARGE WAS RECALLED TO WASHINGSQON.

2. EMBASSY CONSULAR SECTION IS PRESENTLY OPERATING WITH
ONLY TWO OFFICERS SINCE CHIEF OF CONSULAR SECTION HAS SINCE
OCTOBER 20 BEEN PERFORMING DUTIES OF CHARGE. DEMANDS OF
CHARGE POSITION DURING A VERY DIFFICULT PERIOD OF STRAINED
RELATIONS HAS PRECLUDED CONSUL FROM BEING ABLE TO EXERCISE
MORE THAN MINIMAL SUPERVISORY CONTROL OVER ACTIVITIES OF
THE CONSULAR SECTION. FURTHERMORE, PRESENT AUSTERE MANNING
PRECLUDES POST FROM BEING ABLE TO SHIFT ANY ASSETS TO
CONSULAR SECTION AT THIS TIME.

3. WE ARE AWARE THAT NEW OFFICER WILL BE ARRIVING
JANUARY 9. HOWEVER HE IS A NEW OFFICER WHO WILL
REQUIRE TRAINING TO BECOME A FULLY PRODUCTIVE
MEMBER OF CONSULAR SECTION. UNLESS SITUATION HERE
DICTATES OTHERWISE, WE MAY BE ABLE TO ALLOW OFFICER
PRESENTLY IN CONSULAR SECTION WHO IS SCHEDULED TO
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ROTATE TO POLITICAL SECTION TO REMAIN THERE UNTIL
THE END OF JANUARY. HOWEVER, POST DOES NOT BELIEVE
THAT IN JANUARY WE CAN ISSUE MORE THAN 500
IMMIGRANT VISAS UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES.
POST APPRECIATES DEPARTMENT'S AUTHORIZATION TO
INCREASE OUR LOCAL COMPLEMENT WITH ADDITIONAL

PIT POSITION (REF B). THIS WILL PERMIT POST TO BEGIN CUTTING BACKLOG OF QUALIFIED APPLICANTS IN ENSUING MONTHS AND TO IMMEDIATELY HANDLE PROCESSING OF ANTICIPATED RISE IN NUMBER OF IMMIGRANT VISA APPLICATIONS. NATURALLY ONCE SITUATION NORMALIZES AND FORMER CHARGE RETURNS TO POST, WE WILL BE ABLE TO INCREASE OUR VISA ISSUANCE. HOWEVER, AT THIS TIME, THERE IS NOIU INDICATION WHEN HE WILL RETURN.

4. UP TO NOW, EMBASSY IS PLEASED THAT EVEN WITH SHORTAGE OF PERSONNEL, WE HAVE CONTINUED TO PROVIDE FULL CONSULAR SERVICES TO BOTH GUYANESE AND U.S. CITIZENS BUT, WITH PRESENT MANNING, POST IS NOT IN POSITION TO ISSUE THE AMOUNT OF VISAS AUTHORIZED FOR JANUARY.

5. IF DEPARTMENT HAS ANY QUESTIONS CONCERNING ABOVE INFORMATION, SUGGEST THEY CONSULT WITH CHARGE JOHN BLACKEN, ARA/CAR.
MCCOY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cahillha
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976GEORGE02563
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760464-1083
From: GEORGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761234/aaaabczk.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 303441, 76 STATE 305199
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cahillha
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 JUL 2004 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <28 OCT 2004 by cahillha>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONSULAR WORKLOAD
TAGS: PFOR, CVIS, APER, AFSP, GY, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006